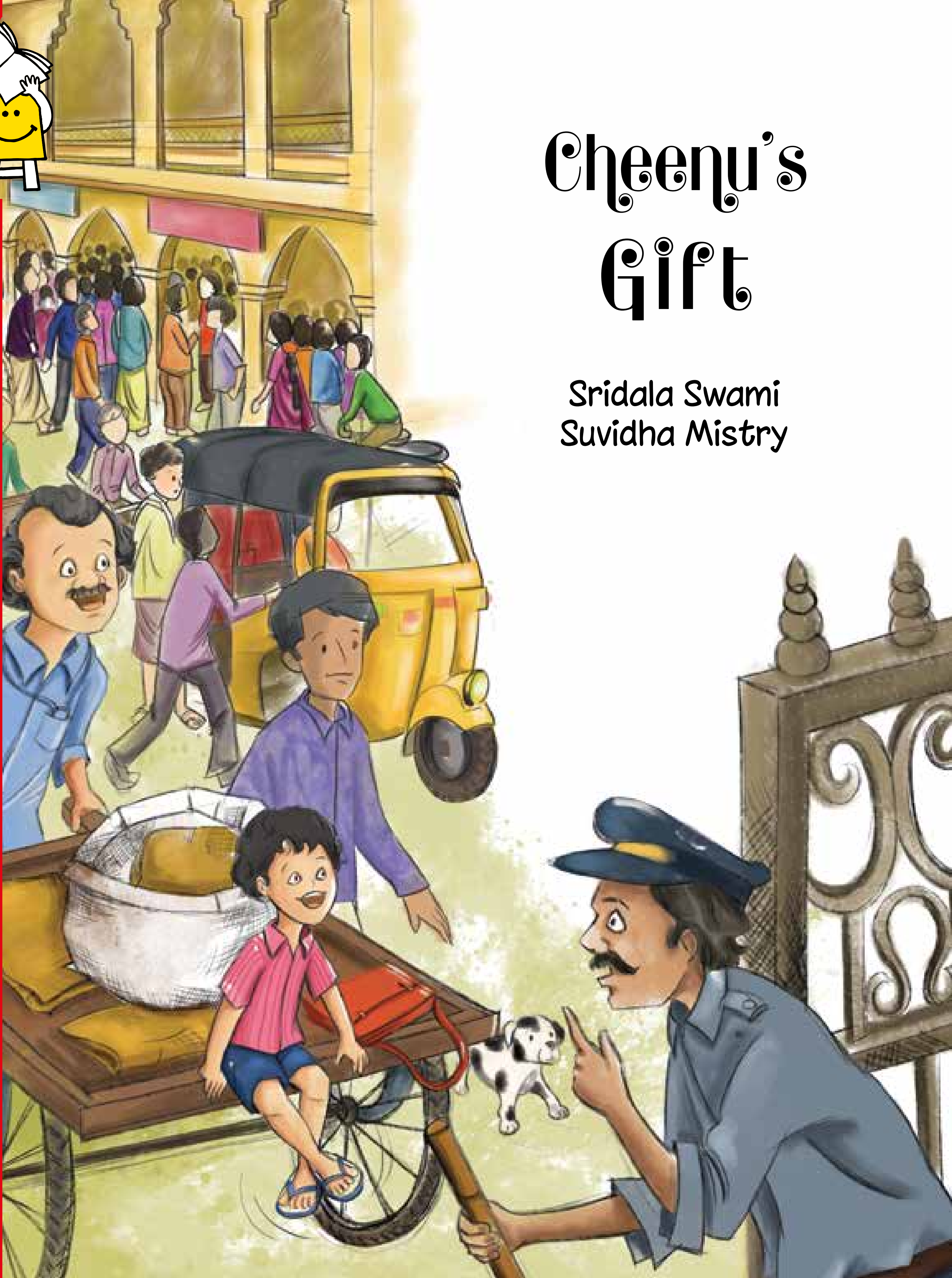
# Cheenu's Gift

Sridala Swami
Suvidha Mistry



LEVEL 2

**‘Cheenu’s Gift’** by Sridala Swami

Illustrations: Suvidha Mistry

© Pratham Books, 2009

First English Edition: 2009

ISBN: 978-81-8479-067-2

Typesetting and layout:
Pratham Books, New Delhi

Printed by:
xxxxxxxx

Published by:
Pratham Books
**www.prathambooks.org**

**Registered office:**
PRATHAM BOOKS
# 621, 2nd Floor, 5th Main, OMBR Layout
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New Delhi
T: +91 11 41042483

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# Cheenu's Gift

Written by
Sridala Swami

Illustrated by
Suvidha Mistry

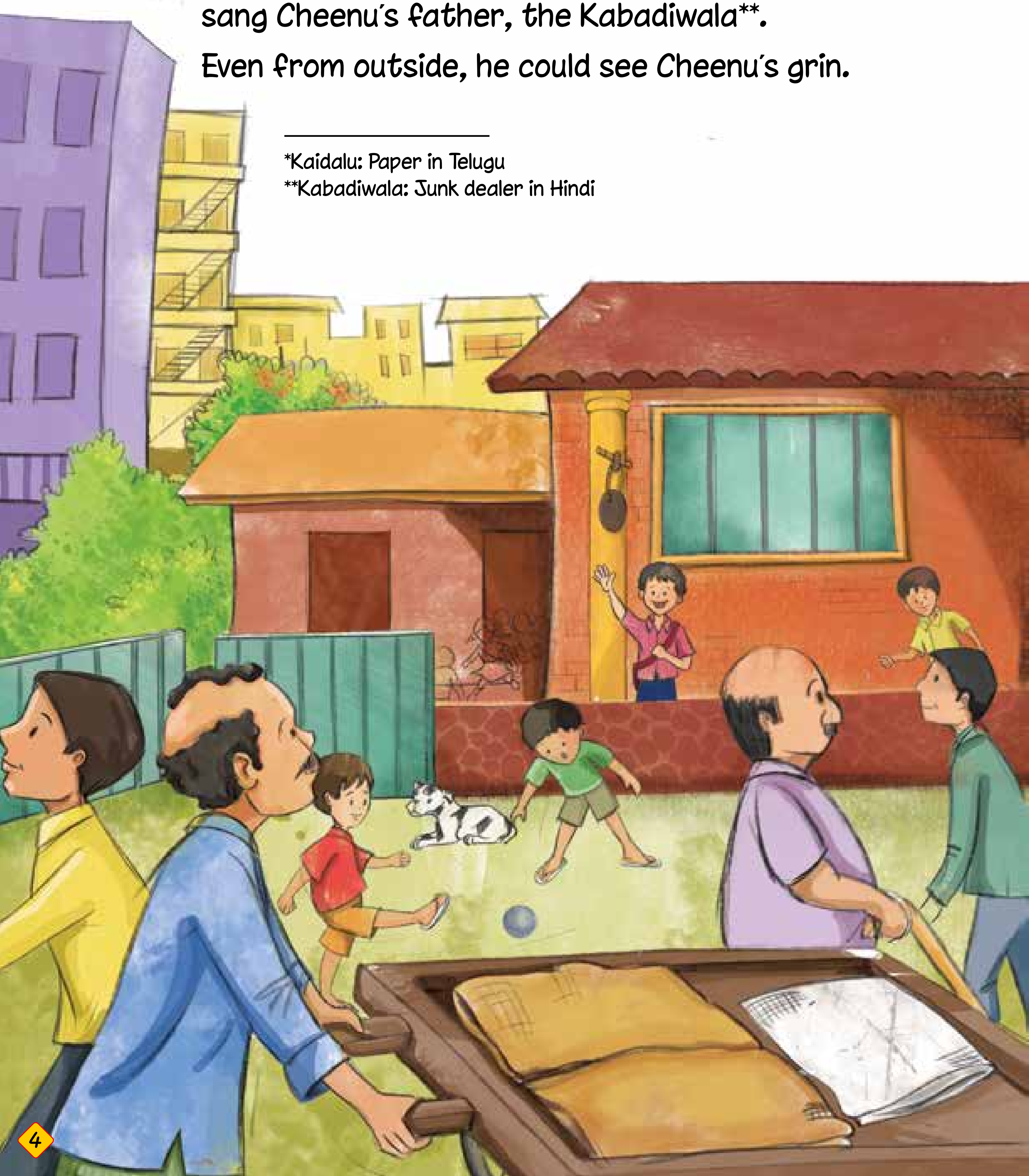
School was about to get over.
Just five minutes more, but Cheenu could not wait!
He looked outside. There was nobody there.
From somewhere close by, a bell jingled.

"Cheenu, what are you doing?" asked his teacher.

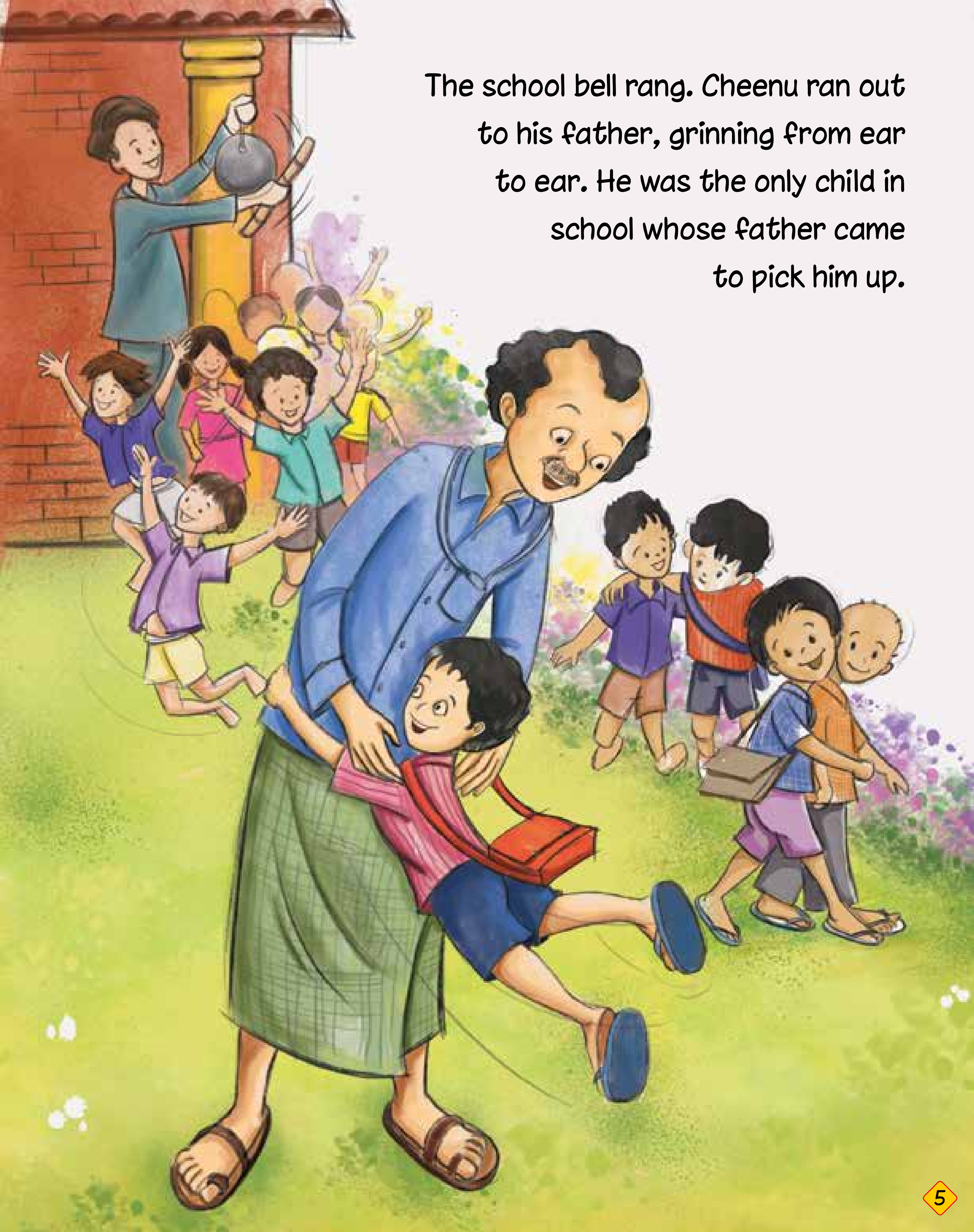
"Sorry Miss," Cheenu said. "It's just that..."

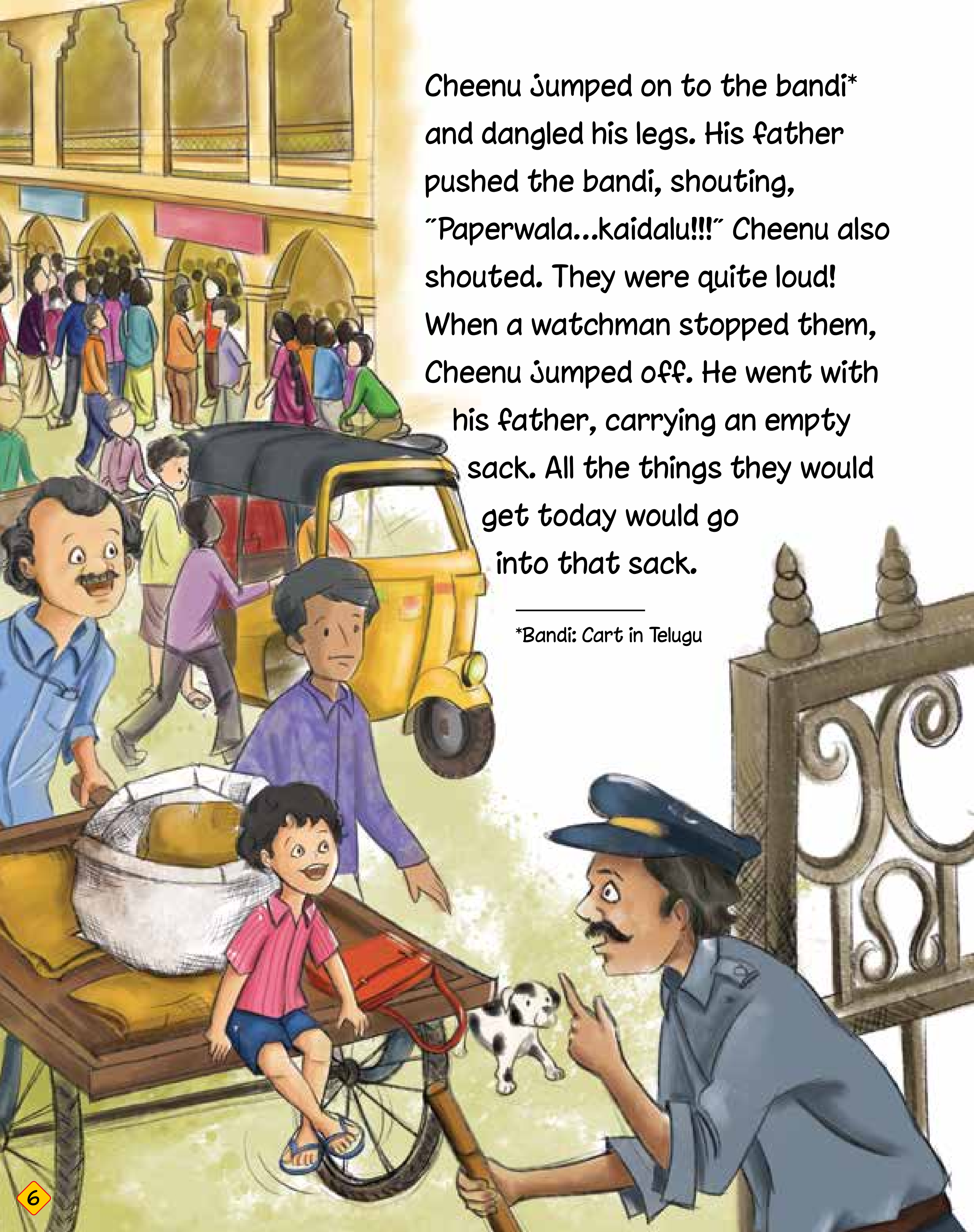
"Paperwala, kaidalu*! Papere kaidalu!!" sang Cheenu's father, the Kabadiwala**. Even from outside, he could see Cheenu's grin.

*Kaidalu: Paper in Telugu
**Kabadiwala: Junk dealer in Hindi



The school bell rang. Cheenu ran out to his father, grinning from ear to ear. He was the only child in school whose father came to pick him up.





Cheenu jumped on to the bandi* and dangled his legs. His father pushed the bandi, shouting, "Paperwala...kaidalu!!!" Cheenu also shouted. They were quite loud! When a watchman stopped them, Cheenu jumped off. He went with his father, carrying an empty sack. All the things they would get today would go into that sack.

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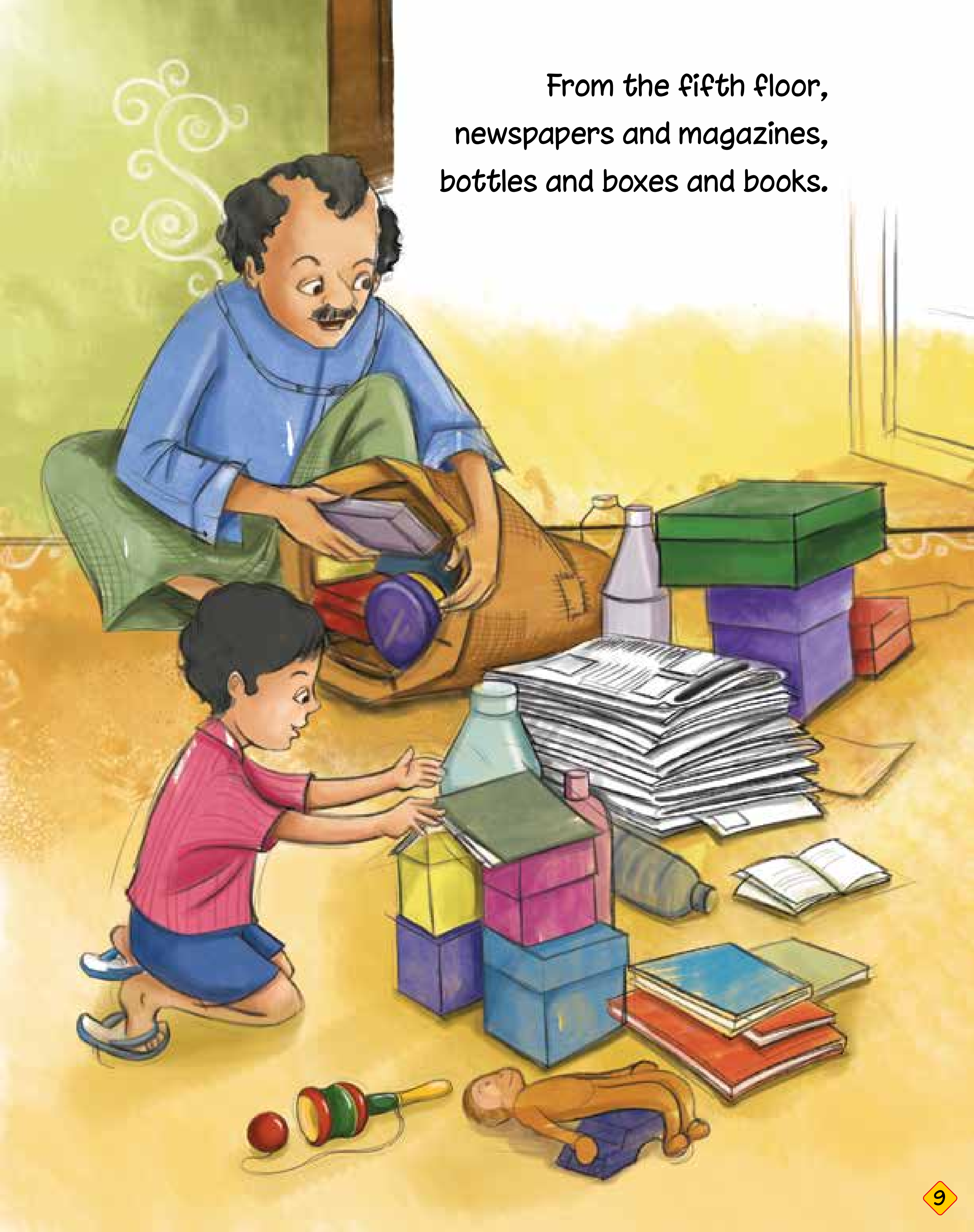
*Bandi: Cart in Telugu

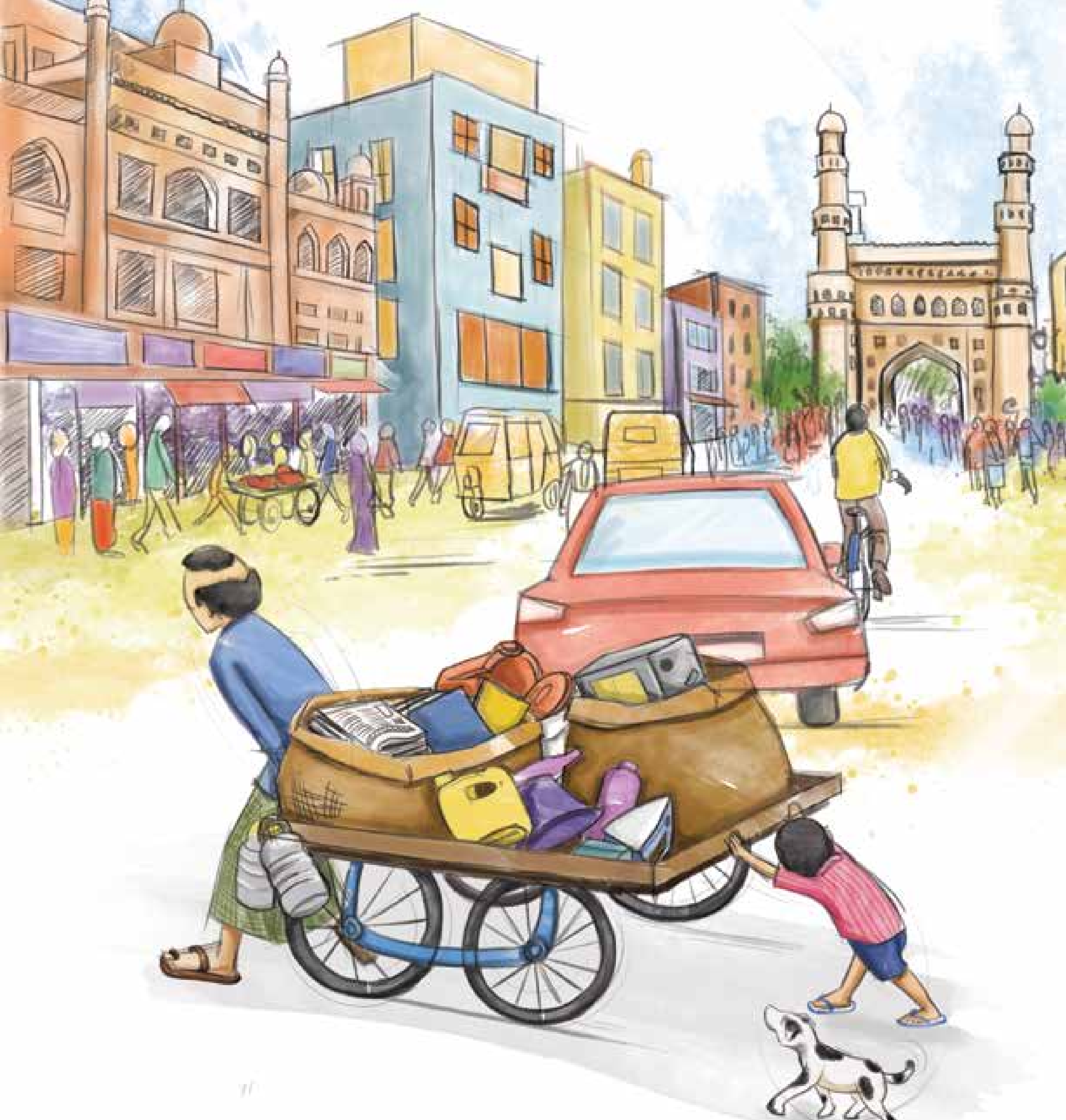
From this house, newspapers.
From that one, newspapers and magazines.
From the ground floor, newspapers and magazines and empty bottles.

Cheenu ran to the bandi to get another empty sack.
They were going up in a lift! Cheenu's eyes grew big and round!

From the fifth floor,
newspapers and magazines,
bottles and boxes and books.



While his father was talking to the lady,
Cheenu put everything away so that the books were
right on top. Where he could look at them!



This time, Cheenu had to help
his father push the bandi!

At home, after they had put everything away, Cheenu's father called him. "I have something for you," he said. It was the book Cheenu had been looking at all afternoon! "Thank you, Naana* !" Cheenu said. After that, they had to call him three times to come and have dinner!

*Naana: Father in Telugu

# Read India

Pratham Books was set up in 2004, as part of the Read India movement, a nation-wide campaign to promote reading among children. Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes quality books for children in multiple Indian languages. Our mission is to see "a book in every child's hand" and democratize the joy of reading. If you would like to contribute to our mission, please email us at info@prathambooks.org.

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Sridala Swami, a film editor from FTII, Pune has edited documentaries, short features and commercials. Her poetry has been published in the online journals, nthposition and Muse India, and in Chandrabhaga. Her first collection of poems, 'A Reluctant Survivor' has been published by the Sahitya Akademi. She lives in Hyderabad and writes poetry and fiction.

Suvidha Mistry is a freelance illustrator and graphic artist. She studied Applied Art at Delhi. She has illustrated many story books for children and has been working on various innovative e-learning projects over the last nine years.

Cheenu has a lot of fun helping his father. Sometimes, there is a special treat for him too!

**Learning to read – level by level. This is a Level 2 book.**

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Cheenu's Gift
(English)
MRP: ₹ 35.00

ISBN 978-81-8479-067-2